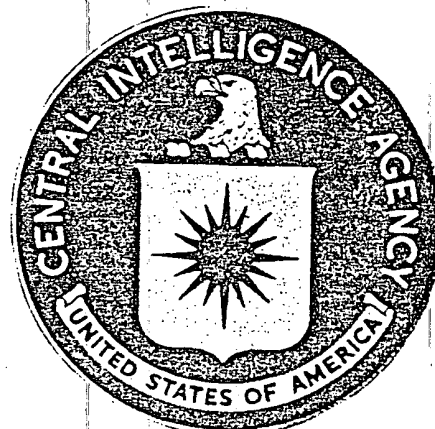


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AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE
June 1984

CIA: Confront "Undeclared" War

Guerrilla action, political upheaval, economic subversion and disinformation are among the many tactics being used against the Free World by the forces of international Communism. In this exclusive interview, America's intelligence chief, CIA Director William J. Casey, assesses how the US is faring in this battle.



Legion Magazine: Mr. Casey, what are the critical intelligence problems of the 1980s as you see them?

Director Casey: First and foremost is the ever-growing military power of the Soviet Union. Second is the destabilization and subversion of countries around the world by a combination of the Soviet Union and its Cuban, Vietnamese, Ethiopian and Libyan proxies. Third are terrorist activities that are increasingly sponsored by the Communists and radical Arab states like Iran and Libya for foreign policy purposes. Then, there's the deep unrest of all those captive peoples under the Soviet yoke, like the Poles. The Arab states around the Mediterranean and the states having proximity to the Persian Gulf present a hornet's nest of intelligence problems. The list is lengthy.

Q. Is all this a scenario for eventual open conflict?

A. I'm afraid that too few people in a peaceful place like America understand the real nature of what's going on around the world. The hard fact is, we are confronted with an undeclared war by the forces of international Communism as well as some radical Arab states. Terrorism has reached a stage where the distinction between war and peace is often obscured. The Soviet Union's KGB is waging constant warfare against the US, using techniques of propaganda, disinformation and other so-called "active measures" such as stealing or otherwise improperly acquiring our best technology; destabilizing weak governments; undermining trade and national economies, and providing weapons and training to insurgents who seek to overthrow non-Communist governments. At the same time, the Soviets seek to build an overwhelming military power that can be used to intimidate others and make political gains.

Q. What's the main hope for countering these forces around the world?

A. The CIA is the one worldwide force that can cope with the tactics practiced in this undeclared war. Other countries have effective intelligence and security agencies. By working closely with them, by sharing information and technological capabilities, we have mounted an effective worldwide counter-force. Hence, the KGB and its auxiliaries—the East Europeans, the Cubans, the Vietnamese, the Nicaraguans—apply increasing amounts of manpower, money and subversive skills in an effort to destroy us and our capabilities.

Q. How is this undeclared war going?

A. I think we are doing better. Over the years, the Communists were very successful in supporting guerrilla action and destabilizing and overthrowing governments. Communists came into control in Ethiopia, Angola, Nicaragua and, of course, in Cuba and Vietnam. In the past couple of years, however, they've been encountering increasing resistance. People in these countries are less willing to take Communist oppression lying down. They are more aware of what the Communists are really up to, and there is growing resistance to it.

Q. Much has been heard about the operations of the KGB and others in stealing our industrial secrets. How damaging is this espionage work?

A. Soviet industrial espionage is a serious problem. Through KGB operations, America ends up contributing indirectly to the build-up, the accuracy and precision of Soviet weapons which, in effect, finds us competing with our own technology. This has forced us to make budget-

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